

## FRENCH INDO-CHINA

be kept strictly secret. Traitors were executed with dramatic flourishei for its effect upon members and upon the country at large. A few accidents in the preparation of arms and ammunition in December, 1929 led the police to discover 700 bombs. More important was the party's method of filling its depleted treasury by acts of banditry which also helped the police in tracking them down. The police got so hot on their trail that the party decided prematurely to launch their programme from the preparatory state to that of action. Their efforts were concentrated upon the troops which garrisoned Yenbay, because this post controlled the Red River valley, and simultaneously action could be concerted with the Yuimanese party.

On the morning of February 10, 1930, a dispatch from Hanoi startled the French public with the news that the native soldiers had mutinied at Yenbay the night before and had killed some of their French officers. A warning had been received but it was disregarded. The murders were particularly brutal, but the rebels were either frightened by the morning light or by the resistance offered them, for at dawn they returned to their barracks in good order. The days that followed were marked by violent outbreaks all over the colony. At Hanoi bombs were thrown at the Commissariat; a policeman on the Pont Doumer was wounded; the sub-prefect of Vinhao was assassinated. Simultaneously in widely separated regions in the three Annamite countries long lines of insurgents marched to the Resident's home to present their grievances. Most of these manifestants were unarmed, and they marched in impressive silence. Unfortunately the Residents and militia became nervous, and after giving repeated orders and warnings to disperse, they

opened fire on the crowd. At about the same time 700  
match workers  
at Benthuy attempted to burn down their factory, and  
this could not  
be attributed to economic grievances as they had just  
received a rise in  
wages. The simultaneousness of these manifestations  
betrayed a unity  
of direction. Thousands of peasants participated in  
these movements,  
which spread all through the Annamite countries.

Some of the party leaders tracked by the police took  
refuge in the  
Tonkinese village of Coam, where they tortured the  
local officials and  
sought to rally their forces. An aeroplane attack finally  
succeeded not  
only in dislodging them but in killing 200 of the  
innocent villagers.  
As in old Annam the tearing down of Coam's bamboo  
barricade was  
the official consummation of its disgrace. A little later  
the party leader,  
Le Him Cauli, and remnants of his followers were  
arrested in the midst  
of new preparations to kill Pasqoler. *The* perennial  
need for money,